

# UNTOLD

STORY LEADS FROM MONTANA



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## Pedaling the Lewis and Clark Trail



photo courtesy Adventure Cycling Association

*A rider on the Lewis & Clark Bicycle Trail*

**Maybe you were born 200 years too late to paddle a canoe in the original Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery but don't despair.**

Pack your panniers and tighten your spokes because thanks to the Adventure Cycling Association, you can now pedal the intrepid explorers' route using the newly released Lewis & Clark Bicycle Trail

maps. An eight-map set charts both the westward route from Illinois, through Montana, to Oregon and a section of the eastward route through southern Montana.

Since Lewis and Clark spent more time in what is now called Montana than in any other state along the 3,254 mile trail, it makes sense that four of the eight map sections are set here. Following them you will cross mountain passes, visit national parks and monuments, overlook dozens of rivers including the Missouri, and ride by bison, elk, deer, antelope and more.

Start with Section 4 as it follows the path from western North Dakota to Great Falls. It skirts a number of designated areas including the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, the Upper Missouri National Wild & Scenic River and the Missouri Breaks National Monument.

Section 5 takes you from Great Falls, home of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, to Missoula and includes a number of optional routes and spurs. Take a side trip to see the Gates of the Mountains, a three-mile long river passage with 1,200-foot high cliffs. Captain Lewis described it thus: "the towering and projecting rocks in many places seem ready to tumble in on

us. This extraordinary range of rocks we called the Gates of the Rocky Mountains."

Section 6 traverses the Bitterroot Mountains from Missoula to Clarkston, Washington, along the Lochsa and Clearwater rivers, with an off-road option along the famed Lolo Trail. Take a quick break at Travelers' Rest State Park when you ride by (see story on page 3).

Section 8 retraces William Clark's 1806 eastbound route along the Yellowstone River from Three Forks to Williston, North Dakota, and includes the historically significant Pompeys Pillar (outside of Billings) where Captain Clark carved his name into the unique rock formation.

"On this route, riders can literally see, feel, and breathe the Corps of Discovery journey that took place almost 200 years ago," said Adventure Cycling's executive director, Bill Sawyer. "Our mission is to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle and explore the landscapes and history of America for fitness, fun and self-discovery. What could better fit this mission than a route following the travels of Lewis and Clark?" Sawyer continued.

We couldn't agree more. So, saddle up and start pedaling.

For more information about the route visit [www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org). Photos and maps can be downloaded at <http://www.adventurecycling.org/mediaroom>.

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# 'Young Mountains' on a Rampage

"When the earth's crust quivered, water sloshed over the dam and sent a huge wave down-canyon. Almost simultaneously, the rockslide five miles below slapped the riverbed and threw a tidal wave of water up-canyon. Most people were caught between the two."

"Whole forests of trees split like matchsticks, huge boulders spilled in every direction and roads crushed into gravel."

—Excerpts from the *Salt Lake Tribune*, August 19, 1959.

And thus, Quake Lake was born August 17, 1959 at 11:37 pm. In less than a minute, over 80 million tons of rock crashed into the narrow Madison River Canyon at 100 m.p.h. The Hebgen Lake Earthquake, as it is known today, measured 7.5 on the Richter scale. Ultimately, twenty-eight people lost their lives.

Fast-forward forty-four years and you still see evidence of the spectacular devastation in the eerie stillness of the "new" lake's water and ghostly apparitions that are broken and dead, partially submerged trees. It remains an impressive sight and a grim reminder of nature's awesome power.

Overlooking the lake, with a panoramic view of the mountain that fell, is the Earthquake Lake Visitor Center, run by the USDA Forest Service. It features exhibits on geology and earthquakes, interpretive talks, videos, and an outdoor boardwalk telling the tale of that night. Visitors can also take an auto tour along Highway 287, where points of interest like Ghost Village, Refugee Point, Duck Creek and the epicenter of the earthquake, can be seen.

The Visitor Center is located 27 miles northwest of West Yellowstone or 65 miles south of Ennis, both on Highway 287. For more information contact the Visitor Center at 406-682-7620 (June–Sept) or the Hebgen Lake Ranger District at 406-823-6961.



*Quake Lake*

"When the solid earth proves not so solid and a mighty quake occurs, man is terrified. For the quake comes without warning. And man, who today is talking about visiting other planets, has not yet found a way of telling when Mother Earth will go on a rampage."

—*Salt Lake Tribune*, August 19, 1959

## Great Falls Bubbly

Native Americans revered it, directly connecting it to a Blackfeet Indian Sun god. Lewis and Clark stumbled into it while portaging around the "Great Falls" of the Missouri. And today, you can still experience it for yourself by the gallon.

"It" is Giant Springs, one of the largest freshwater springs in the world. Flowing at a measured 338 million gallons of water per day, the water stays at a constant temperature of 54 degrees and has been carbon dated to be about 3,000 years old. It originates high in the Little Belt Mountains where rainfall and melted snow filter down through cracks in the 250 million year old Madison Limestone Formation.

More than a quarter million people visit the historic springs each year at the Giant Springs Heritage State Park, located in Great Falls. They come to picnic on its



*Giant Springs Heritage State Park*

shores, visit the fish hatchery (the rainbows and browns thrive in the cold, crystalline water) and visitors center, walk along the Rivers' Edge Trail and view the nearby Rainbow Falls or visit the neighboring Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Some come just to wiggle their fingers or skip a pebble in the shortest river in the world. Yes, that is correct. The *Guinness Book of World Records* has proclaimed the Roe River, fed by one of the "largest" springs in the world, to be the shortest river in the world. It has been measured on different occasions, with lengths varying from 58 feet to 200 feet. The tiny river connects Giant Springs to the Missouri River.

For more information log onto [www.visitmt.com](http://www.visitmt.com) and search on Giant Springs or call the park at (406) 454-5840.



## PrairieFest 2003

Party! Party! Party! That is what the folks in Sheridan County are doing for nine days during the 1st Annual Countywide Homecoming Festival, PrairieFest 2003, June 28-July 6. The "new" event was born out of an "old" fashioned idea. Gather everyone together, young and old, residents and visitors, families and friends, and celebrate Sheridan County and its way of life.

There is too much fun on tap to be contained in one area so the festivities will travel from town to town including Westby, Plentywood and

Medicine Lake. Visitors can watch antique tractors battle it out for the top pulling honors, get a taste of the Old West at the Ranch Rodeo and Top Hand Competition, or dance in the streets to some of the best music around. Other events include a fishing derby, barbeques and pancake breakfasts, tailgate parties, fireworks, a parade, golf, softball and volleyball tournaments, bike races and "The Howling at the Moon."

For more information contact Mickey McCall at 406-765-8088 or [prairiefest@plentywood.com](mailto:prairiefest@plentywood.com).



## Battle of the Little Bighorn Indian Memorial Dedication Celebrates Peace through Unity

By June 1876, the several bands of the Lakota Nation along with their ally, the Northern Cheyenne Nation, had reached the traditional summer hunting areas in the Yellowstone, Powder, Tongue, and Big Horn River country. Three columns of the United States Army were moving into the same region.

By July, over 300 soldiers from all sides lay dead in the Montana and Wyoming countryside. The Lakota and Cheyenne bands dispersed, as was their custom when pressed by the Army soldiers, and The Crow and Arickaree scouts had returned to their homes having guided the Army columns to their destinies. The dust that settled over these battlefields covered and clouded the history as much as it covered the drying sage and bleaching bones."

—Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association.

honoring the Indians who fought then, on either side, to preserve their land and culture. The dedication theme is "Peace Through Unity." It is the 127th anniversary of the battle.

The Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, part of the National Park Service, is the site of the two memorials. It is located just south of Crow Agency and was formerly known as the Custer Battlefield National Monument. In 1991, Congress renamed the site and with the same law directed that an Indian Memorial be designed and constructed to formally acknowledge the Indian perspective and to recognize and honor Native Americans who struggled and died to preserve and defend their homeland and traditional way of life.

The dedication ceremony will include descendants of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull as well as many tribal leaders. The Crow tribe, on whose land the battlefield adjoins, is hosting a celebration including a powwow and rodeo in commemoration of the dedication.

For more information, and updated developments regarding the dedication ceremony, visit the battlefield

website [www.nps.gov/libi](http://www.nps.gov/libi) or call 406-638-2621 or 638-2622.



*Battle of the Little Bighorn Cemetery*



*Indian Memorial Drawing*

## Thunderclappers Still Ringing for Lewis & Clark

Here in Montana we take Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery very seriously. That is why we are excited to tell the world about the latest scoop on the, er, poop...or maybe it should be, the tale on the tinkle.

In all seriousness, Montana's Travelers' Rest State Park, a Native American crossroads for centuries is also a location where the Lewis and Clark expedition camped on their journey to the Pacific Ocean in 1805 and then again on their way home in 1806.

We know this because archaeologists working at the park in the summer of 2002 excavated a mercury-tainted trench believed to be the Corps of Discovery's latrine. The medicine taken by Lewis and Clark's men during their trip, Rush's Thunderclappers, was extremely high in mercury and it is held that traces of the mercury would remain in the soil. Additional excavations turned up a fire hearth with evidence of lead ammunition manufacturing. These discoveries positioned the park as one of the few sites in the nation with physical confirmation of the group's visit—a truly unique designation—and visitor destination.

There are other intriguing clues to activities 200 years ago, including a tombac or metal button dating from 1750 to 1810. And of course, there is evidence of Native American use in the general area, principally by the Salish, Kootenai and Shoshone tribes.

Interpretive presentations and guided tours are available for visitors.

For more information log onto

[www.travelersrest.org](http://www.travelersrest.org) or call 406-273-4253.

courtesy Roybal Corporation

# NOTHING TRIVIAL ABOUT THIS MONTANA PURSUIT

As writers we all need some fast facts and trivia to spice up a story now and then. If you are looking for a source for niblets of information about Montana, Janet Spencer's new book, *Montana Trivia*, from Rutledge Press may be the answer. Chapters on history, geography, arts and literature, sports and leisure, entertainment, and science are filled with Big Sky Country factoids.

Spencer, who lives in Helena, has claimed numerous titles for herself over the years including: Trivia Queen of the Universe, Royal Ruler of Useless Information, Master of Arcane Knowledge and Extraneous Lore, and Keeper of Forgotten Facts and Startling Statistics. To find out more about Janet Spencer and her writings, log onto [www.montanatrivia.com](http://www.montanatrivia.com).

## HERE ARE SOME EXCERPTS FROM HER BOOK:

- Q1. Where was the first dinosaur fossil found in the Western Hemisphere?  
A1. Near Fort Benton in 1854
- Q2. What actor, who grew up in Helena, turned down the role of Rhett Butler in "Gone With the Wind"?  
A2. Gary Cooper
- Q3. Ernest Hemingway described what Montana town in his novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls"?  
A3. Missoula
- Q4. What percent of the Lewis and Clark Expedition knew how to swim?  
A4. Sixty-six percent.



- Q5. What town features a 27-foot concrete penguin with the inscription "Coldest Spot in the Nation"?  
A5. Cut Bank
- Q6. Lester Thurow, economist and best-selling author, was born in what town?  
A6. Livingston
- Q7. What comedian, movie star and former "Saturday Night Live" cast member was born in Missoula?

A7. Dana Carvey

Q8. How many states are larger than Montana? Name them.

A8. Three: Alaska, California, Texas

Q9. In 1927, what writer and religious leader started his writing career as joke editor on the Helena High School newspaper?

A9. L. Ron Hubbard, author of "Dianetics" and father of Scientology

Q10. Why did the Missouri River stop draining into the Hudson Bay?

A10. Ice Age glaciers diverted it to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico

Q11. What town set a new national record Jan. 11, 1980, when the temperature rose from 32 below to 15 above in seven minutes?

A11. Great Falls

Q12. Who wrote, "For other states I have admiration, respect, recognition, even some affection, but with Montana it is love..."?

A12. John Steinbeck

Q13. Where are some of the earth's oldest rocks found?

A13. The Lewis Range in Glacier National Park at roughly 4 billion years old

Q14. Which Montanan is the only pitcher to hit a grand slam in the history of the World Series?

A14. The late Dave McNally of Billings

Q15. What is Montana's average elevation?

A15. 3,400 feet above sea level

## Discover Travelers' Rest June 30, 2003 - July 03, 2003

An exciting five-day event commemorating the anniversary of Lewis and Clark's visit to the area. A festival with re-enactors and children's games on Sunday will be followed by four days of educational and exploratory events. Phone: 406-273-4253

Web: <http://www.travelersrest.org>

Email: [info@travelersrest.org](mailto:info@travelersrest.org)



Travelers' Rest

photo courtesy Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association

## FROM MONTANA

The diversity of events, places and people in Montana is almost as wide as the state itself. We hope to give you a taste of that diversity with this quarterly newsletter. In addition, the following services are offered to editors, writers and producers:

### Visual Materials

Color slides, 8"x 10" B/W photos and stock video footage are available for editorial use.

### Writer/Photographer Referrals

We can put you in contact with many of Montana's most talented and experienced freelance writers and photographers.

### Editorial Copy/Calendar of Events

We can provide background information or editorial copy for many subjects. We also maintain a calendar of events for the entire state.

### Individual Attention

If you need the latest vacation guide and road map of Montana, a liaison with other government agencies or detailed information to fit a specific story angle, we're here to assist you.

Contact Donnie Sexton, Publicity/Photography  
[publicity@visitmt.com](mailto:publicity@visitmt.com) / 406-841-2897

